

**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

## **SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE of a PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING for the Port of Long Beach Pier S Container Terminal Project (Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report)**

*LOS ANGELES DISTRICT*

**Meeting Date: September 25, 2003**

---

A public scoping meeting for the proposed Port of Long Beach Pier S Container Terminal Project Draft EIS/EIR will be held concurrently at **6:00 PM** on **September 25th, 2003**. Spanish translation services will be available at the meeting.

**Location:** The meeting will be held at the Port of Long Beach Harbor Administration building in the 6<sup>th</sup> floor Board Room, located at 925 Harbor Plaza, in Long Beach.

Written comments will be received until **October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2003**. **Written comments should be directed to the Corps of Engineers at the address below**. For location information, see page 4 of this notice.

**Army Corps of Engineers Project Manager:** Joshua L. Burnam (213) 452-3294,  
Joshua.L.Burnam@usace.army.mil

**Port of Long Beach Contact:** Stacey Crouch (562) 590-4160

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Los Angeles District, in conjunction with the Port of Long Beach, is examining the feasibility of waterside, terminal and transportation improvements at Pier S in the Port of Long Beach. The Corps is considering the Port's application for a Department of the Army permit under Clean Water Act Section 404 and Rivers and Harbor Act Section 10 to conduct dredge and fill activities and construct a marine container terminal facility.

The primary Federal concern is the dredging and discharging of materials within waters of the United States and potential significant impacts on the human environment. Therefore, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Corps is requiring the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prior to reaching a permit decision. The Corps may ultimately make a determination to permit or deny the above project, or permit modified versions of the above project.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Port of Long Beach will serve as Lead Agency for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for its consideration of development

approvals within its jurisdiction. The Corps and the Port of Long Beach have agreed to jointly prepare a Draft EIS/EIR in order to optimize efficiency and avoid duplication. The Draft EIS/EIR is intended to be sufficient in scope to address both the Federal and the state and local requirements and environmental issues concerning the proposed activities and permit approvals.

Interested parties are hereby notified that a preliminary application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for the activity described herein. Interested parties are invited to provide their views on the scope of the Draft EIS/EIR, which will become a part of the record and will be considered in the development of the EIS/EIR. This EIS/EIR will be used as part of a permit decision pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1344).

Comments should be mailed to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District  
Regulatory Branch  
c/o Joshua Burnam  
ATTN: CESPL-CO-R-1999-16479-JLB  
P.O. Box 532711  
Los Angeles, California 90053-2325

Alternatively, comments can be sent electronically to: [Joshua.L.Burnam@usace.army.mil](mailto:Joshua.L.Burnam@usace.army.mil)

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Project Site:** Pier S is an approximately 170-acre marine terminal site in the Terminal Island Harbor Planning District of the Port. The site was formerly used as an active oil and gas production field from the 1930s until 1999. From 1951 to 1969, a portion of the site was leased by the United Pacific Resources Corporation (UPRC) to the now defunct TCL Corporation for the disposal of oil and gas drilling waste in shallow impoundments or “sumps.” Testing conducted in the 1980s indicated that TCL Corporation disposed of materials other than those permitted under lease agreement.

As part of a continuing effort to remediate contaminated soils and allow for expanding port uses, the Port and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control entered into a voluntary cleanup agreement in September 1997 to investigate and remediate contamination. Several phases of subsurface investigations conducted between 1991 and 1997 characterized subsurface contamination. The total volume of sump material on site was estimated to be approximately 180,000 cubic yards. Chemical analyses of soil and shallow groundwater identified organic and inorganic contaminants.

In 1998 and 1999, an EIR for a marine container terminal on Pier S was prepared. The Port’s Board of Harbor Commissioners certified the EIR in March 1999, approving the Pier S marine container terminal. Project components included: relocation of oil facilities and utilities; site remediation; site preparation; dike realignment; wharf construction; and other terminal facilities. The relocation of oil facilities and utilities, site remediation, which included investigation and remediation of approximately 25 acres of sump material and contaminated groundwater, and site preparation, which included raising the existing ground surface to approximately 15 feet Mean Lower Low Water by placing approximately 4.5 million cubic yards of material on site, have all been completed. The dike realignment, wharf construction, and terminal facilities project components were evaluated in this EIR. In consideration of the Federal requirements, and updated project specific information, the Port of Long Beach has decided to prepare a new EIR as part of the combined EIS/EIR.

**Proposed Action:** The proposed project would construct a 170-acre marine terminal on Pier S. Dredge and fill activities would involve dike realignment, berth deepening, and wharf construction. Construction of the wharf would include excavation of the existing shoreline to straighten the shoreline and widen the Cerritos Channel between the Pier A and future Pier S pierhead lines to accommodate the passage of modern container vessels through the channel. Widening of the Cerritos Channel would create approximately 10.7 acres of new water surface area. Wharf excavation would include removing approximately 1,200,000 cubic yards of material and reconstructing the shoreline with imported quarry run and armor rock. In addition to wharf excavation, approximately 500,000 cubic yards of material that may or may not be suitable for unconfined aquatic disposal would be dredged from the Cerritos Channel for ship berthing.

In the preferred project alternative the majority of the backlands of the Pier S terminal (up to 100 acres) would be developed for container storage. The terminal would include buildings, facilities, and other structures needed to support container terminal operations and administration. Two truck gates with sign bridges, raised pedestals, scales, and infrastructure required to mount and operate optical character recognition equipment would be constructed. A pedestrian footbridge may also be constructed. The terminal may include an intermodal railyard facility, consisting of eight tracks, with the capacity to accommodate two twenty-car unit trains.

**Issues:** There are several potential environmental issues that will be addressed in the EIS/EIR. Additional issues may be identified during the scoping process. Issues initially identified as potentially significant include:

- a) Land use and planning impacts;
- b) Geological issues, including dredging and stabilization of fill areas in an area of known seismic activity;
- c) Impacts to water quality;
- d) Potential impacts to marine biological resources and endangered species of birds;
- e) Impacts to air quality;
- f) Impacts to traffic, including marine navigation and ground transportation;
- g) Potential for noise impacts;
- h) Impacts to public utilities and services;
- i) Potential impacts to aesthetic resources, including cranes, light and glare;
- j) Potential impacts on public health and safety;
- k) Potential impacts to recreation;
- l) Cumulative impacts.

**Alternatives.** Alternatives initially being considered for the proposed improvement project include the following:

- a) Alternate location(s) for the terminal improvements
- b) Non-containerized use of terminal (lumber, autos)
- c) Non-shipping use- park, cruise terminal, commercial development, empty container storage
- d) No Federal action (Construction and operation of only backlands developments at Phases II and III).
- e) Larger facility (consolidation of joint facilities).

**Scoping Process.** The Corps and the Port will jointly conduct a public scoping meeting on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2003, at 6:00 P.M., to receive public comment and assess public concerns regarding the appropriate scope and preparation of the Draft EIS/EIR. Meetings will be held at:

**Port of Long Beach Harbor Administration Building  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room  
925 Harbor Plaza  
Long Beach, CA 90801-0570**

Parties interested in being added to the Corps' electronic mail notification list for the Port of Long Beach can register at: [www.spl.usace.army.mil/regulatory/register.html](http://www.spl.usace.army.mil/regulatory/register.html). This list will be used in the future to notify the public about scheduled hearings and availability of future public notices. Participation in the public meeting by federal, state and local agencies and other interested organizations and persons are encouraged. Written comments will be received **October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2003**. Alternatively, comments can be sent electronically to: [Joshua.L.Burnam@usace.army.mil](mailto:Joshua.L.Burnam@usace.army.mil) until August 1, 2003.

These hearings are intended to provide the Corps and the Port with information the public feels is necessary to establish the appropriate scope for preparing the environmental analysis in the proposed future EIS/EIR. The Corps and the Port are not yet requesting public input on the merits or detriments of the overall proposal, nor advice on whether or not to approve or deny the proposal. There will be future opportunity to provide these types of comments during the permit review process.

During the public hearings, anyone wishing to make a statement will be allocated a certain amount of time to provide information on the proposed project. The amount of time each person is allowed will be directly dependent on the number of people who sign up to speak at the public hearing. We preliminarily estimate that individuals will be given 3 minutes to provide their comments verbally. We would like to encourage interest groups to designate an official spokesperson to present the group's views. We plan to allocate a larger amount of time to official representatives of such groups. Groups wishing to designate an official representative must notify the Corps in writing prior to, but not later than, **Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003**. The determination of this extended speaking time will be based on the number of responses received by the Corps.

**Availability of the Draft EIS/EIR.** The joint lead agencies expect the Draft EIS/EIR to be made available to the public during Winter 2003 or Spring 2004. A public hearing will be held during the public comment period for the Draft EIS/EIR.

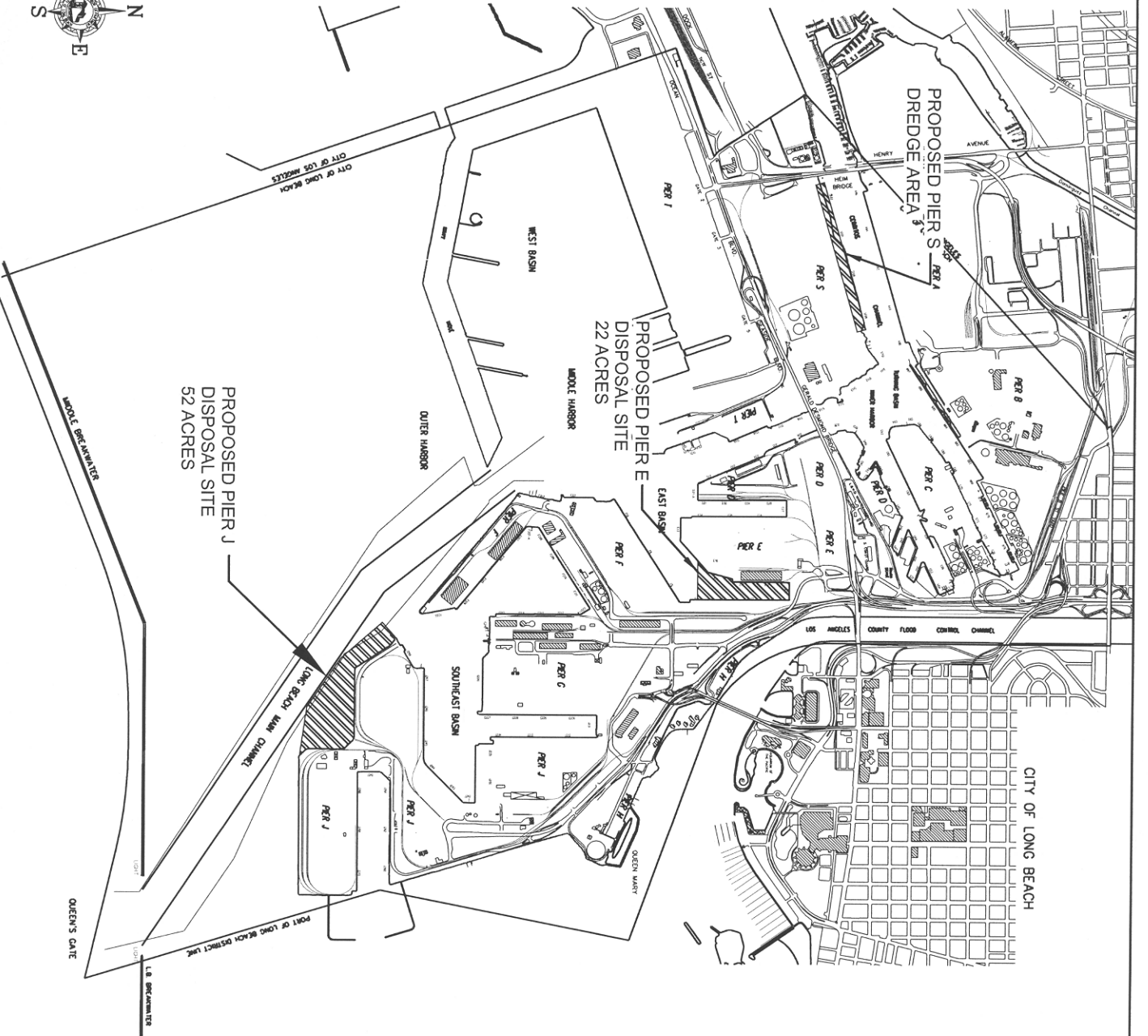
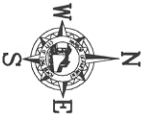


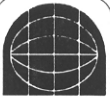
**THE PORT OF LONG BEACH**  
325 HARBOR PLAZA, P.O. BOX 370 LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90801 TEL. (562) 437-0041

PROJECT MOUNTAIN MAP

PIER S DREDGE  
PIER J & PIER E DISPOSAL SITES

FIGURE 1  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2002





**THE PORT OF LONG BEACH**

PIER S DREDGE PLAN - 1

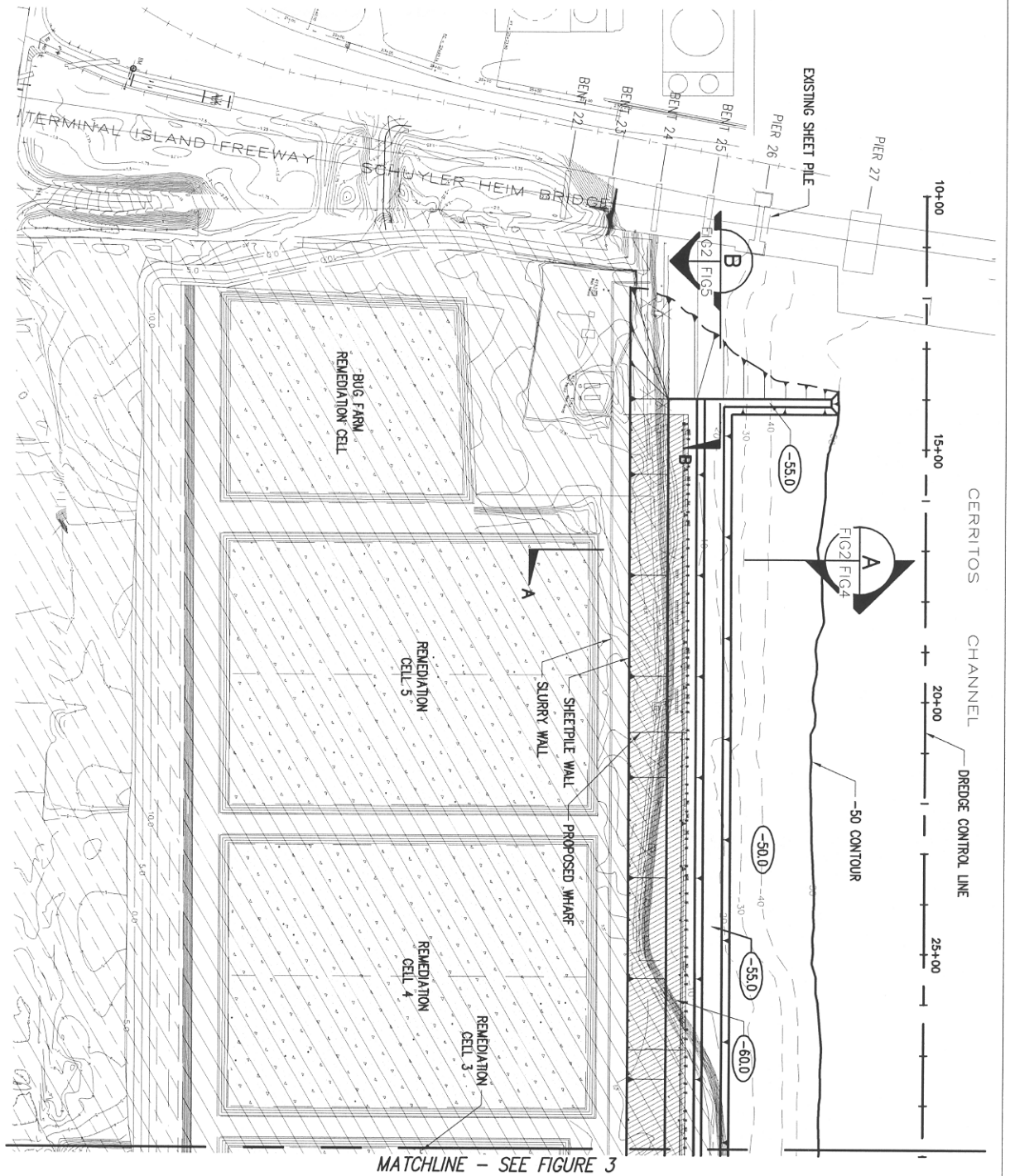
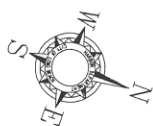
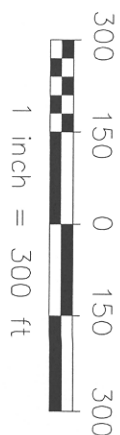
PIER S  
& PIER J

FIGURE 2  
JULY 16, 2002

**DMJM HARRIS**  
 3800 Kirtley Airport Way, Suite 350  
 Long Beach, California 90806  
 Phone: (562) 981-2850  
 Fax: (562) 981-2830

**Kp11**  
 Consulting Engineers

PLAN  
 SCALE: 1"=300'





# THE PORT OF LONG BEACH

925 HARBOR PLAZA P.O. BOX 570 LONG BEACH CALIFORNIA 90801 TEL. (562) 437-004

PIER S DREDGE PLAN - 2

PIER S  
& PIER J

JULY 16, 2002

FIGURE 3

DMJM ■ HARRIS

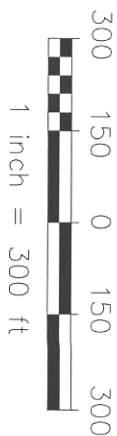
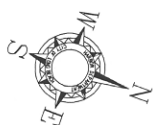
3800 Kilroy Airport Way, Suite 350  
Long Beach, California 90806  
Phone: (562) 981-2950  
Fax: (562) 981-2930

**k p i f** Consulting Engineers

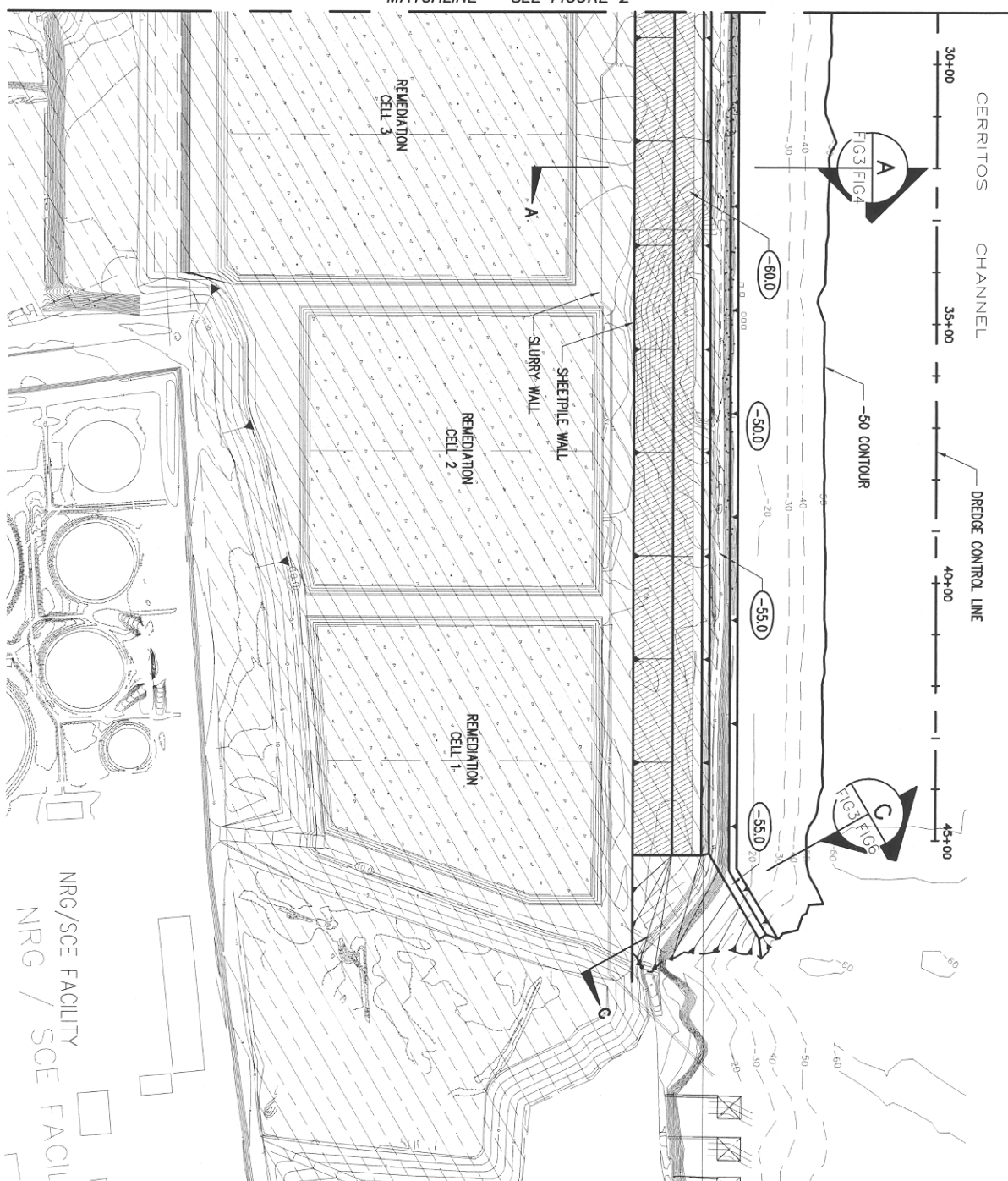
## PLAN

SCALE: 1"=300

NRG / SCE FACILITY



MATCHLINE - SEE FIGURE 2





925 HARBOR PLAZA P.O. BOX 570 LONG BEACH CALIFORNIA 90801 TEL. (562) 437-0041

**THE PORT OF LONG BEACH**

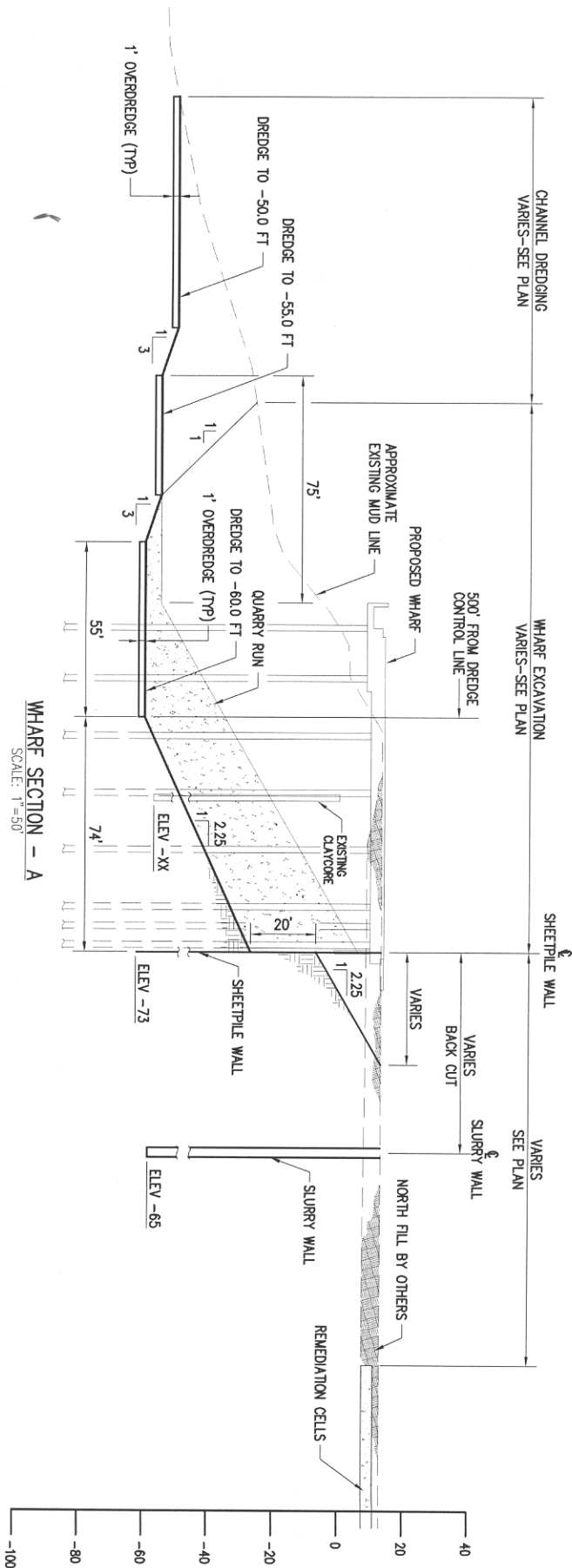
**DMJM HARRIS**

3600 Kilroy Airport Way, Suite 350  
 Long Beach, California 90806  
 Phone: (562) 981-2350  
 Fax: (562) 981-2380



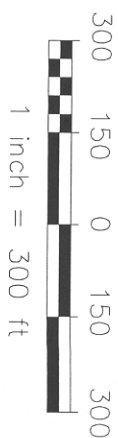
Consulting Engineers

ESTIMATED CUT QUANTITIES	
ITEM	QUANTITY (CY)
WHARF EXCAVATION	1,090,000
CHANNEL DREDGE	582,000
BACK CUT	44,000
TOTAL	1,716,000



WHARF CROSS SECTION - A

SCALE: 1"=50'



WHARF CROSS SECTION - A

PIER S  
& PIER J

FIGURE 4  
 JULY 16, 2002